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*Symposium*

## Mirrors and Compasses: An 85th Birthday Symposium for Erika Bourguignon

Friday, February 20, 2009

Noon

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201



Erika Bourguignon  
Professor Emerita of  
Anthropology  
The Ohio State University

This event honors one of Ohio State's most distinguished, influential, and interdisciplinary faculty members.

Known for pioneering work on the relationship of religious trance to gender roles and social change, **Erika Bourguignon** set long-term agendas in psychological and psychiatric anthropology, religious studies, women's studies, and African American performance studies. More recently her explorations of her family past have garnered attention in Jewish studies and the study of memory in Central Europe.

In her 40 years at Ohio State (1949-90), Bourguignon chaired the Department of Anthropology, co-created with her husband (the Belgian artist Paul-Henri Bourguignon) a weekly radio program on world music, co-founded the still-running Women in Development seminar, and was the first chair of the Council on Academic Excellence for Women.

The symposium brings Bourguignon's contemporaries and students, all of them distinguished Ohio State alumni, to explore three aspects of her scholarly contribution.

- Egon Schwarz, a fellow child emigré and an internationally renowned scholar of German and Austrian literature, will speak about the impact of the events of 1938 in Austria and hold a conversation with Bourguignon on how Austrian history shaped a generation of exiles.
- Thomas Csordas, author of *Body/Meaning/Healing* and other influential works on charismatic religious movements, will

discuss approaches to religious experience growing out of Bourguignon's work.

- John Szwed, author of many well-known books on jazz and African American culture, will show the lineage of attention to performance and the body in African diaspora studies.
- Melinda Kanner, a psychological anthropologist working on contemporary American cultures, will draw links between Bourguignon's biography and these different scholarly conversations.

## Symposium Schedule

### 9 a.m. Welcome

Dorothy Noyes, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Folklore Studies

Joan Leitzel, Professor and Interim Executive Dean, Colleges of the Arts and Sciences

### 9:30 a.m. Session I: Vienna 1938 and its Aftermaths: Experience and Memory

Chair: Helen Fehervary, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Introduction: Melinda Kanner, Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Houston

Speaker: Egon Schwarz, Rosa May Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, Washington University of St. Louis, "What Happened to Us and the Likes of Us?"

Respondent: Erika Bourguignon

Discussion

### 12 p.m. Lunch

### 1 p.m. Session II: Altered States, Gender, and Religious Experience

Chair: Sarah Iles Johnston, Professor and Director, Center for the Study of Religions

Introduction: Melinda Kanner

Speaker: Thomas J. Csordas, Professor of Anthropology, University of California at San Diego, "The Navajo Water Way: Gender, Altered Consciousness, and Therapeutic Process in Ritual Healing"

Respondent: Lindsay Jones, Professor of Comparative Studies, Ohio State University

Discussion

### 3 p.m. Coffee break

### 3:30 p.m. Session III: Art, Anthropology, and the African Diaspora

Chair: Amy Shuman, Professor of English

Introduction: Melinda Kanner

Speakers: John Szwed, Professor of Music and Jazz Studies, Columbia University, and John M. Musser, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology,

Yale University, “Living in the Golden Age of African American Cultural Studies: An Auto-Ethnography”

Respondent: John W. Roberts, Professor and Interim Dean of Arts and Humanities

Discussion

## Sponsors

Organized by the Center for Folklore Studies, with support from the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Center for the Study of Religions, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Religious Studies Roundtable, Department of Women's Studies, Department of English, Department of Anthropology, OSU-Women in Development, and School of Music.

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